

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 03308 041710Z

71

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-04 CEA-01 OES-03 INT-05 FEA-01 L-03 CAB-02

DODE-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00 AGR-05 /108 W

----- 126273

R 041230Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4432

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 3308

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USINJC,IN

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL SUBCOMMISSION - AGENDA

REF: STATE 050165

1. WE APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON PROPOSED  
AGENDA FOR ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SUBCOMMISSION AND WE HAVE,  
PRIOR TO RECEIPT REFTEL, HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMAL  
DISCUSSIONS ON AGENDA WITH GOI OFFICIALS CONCERNED.

2. AS NOTED EARLIER, WE THINK INCREASED FOCUS ON  
MULTILATERAL QUESTIONS IS DESIRABLE AND GOI REACTION TO THIS  
HAS BEEN POSITIVE. WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS  
CONTAINED REFTEL, WE THINK THAT REVIEW OF BOTH  
GOVERNMENTS' POSITIONS IN THE MTN WOULD BE USEFUL. GOI  
ATTITUDE TOWARDS THIS DISCUSSION IS LIKELY TO BE STRONGLY  
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 03308 041710Z

INFLUENCED BY NATURE OF US (AND OTHER'S) TROPICAL PRODUCTS

OFFERS, IE., IF OFFERS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE GENEROUS, GOI INTEREST IN OVERALL MTN AND INDIAN CONTRIBUTION TO NEGOTIATIONS ARE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO BE POSITIVE.

3. WE SEE SOME ADVANTAGES IN DISCUSSION OF MULTILATERALIZATION OF OPEC AID. INDIANS ARE CERTAINLY INTERESTED BUT WOULD WISH TO AVOID GIVING IMPRESSION THAT THEY ARE BEING PLAYED OFF AGAINST OPEC.

4. WE ARE INCLINED TO RECOMMEND AGAINST RAISING THE SUBJECT OF A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TRANSNATIONAL ENTERPRISES SINCE WE DOUBT THAT A USEFUL EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE. GOI HAS NOT FOCUSED ON THIS AS MULTILATERAL ISSUE AND TENDS TO REACT VISCERALLY AND NEGATIVELY IN DISCUSSIONS OF MNCS. WE WERE SURPRISED NOT TO SEE CIEC ON LIST OF SUBJECTS WHICH WE WOULD PROPOSE TO DISCUSS. WE THINK A USEFUL EXCHANGE COULD TAKE PLACE ON THIS SUBJECT. INDIANS MAY WISH TO ADD UNCTAD IV TO AGENDA.

5. WE RECOMMEND THAT FOLLOWING THREE BILATERAL ISSUES BE MENTIONED TO INDIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AS ITEMS WE WOULD PLAN TO RAISE. (WE ARE PREPARING PAPERS ON EACH SUBJECT.) THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE NO NEED FOR ANY FORMAL AMENDMENT OF THE AGENDA SO LONG AS BOTH COUNTRIES WERE AWARE THAT THEY WOULD BE DISCUSSED:

6. THE FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE IS THE LONG OUTSTANDING ARBITRATION CASE INVOLVING IDI AND ITS POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON GSP. THE EMBASSY HAS RECENTLY AGAIN DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH THE GOI AND IS SUBMITTING A SEPARATE REPORT ON ITS CURRENT STATUS. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS BUT RAISING THIS MATTER WITH THE INDIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WOULD UNDERLINE OUR INTEREST. OF COURSE, IF THE MATTER IS SETTLED BEFORE MARCH 24 NO DISCUSSION NEED TAKE PLACE.

7. THE SECOND ITEM WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ADDED TO THE AGENDA IS CIVIL AVIATION. FAILURE OF USG TO SEEK REMOVAL OF BLATANT VIOLATIONS OF AVIATION BILATERAL WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 03308 041710Z

CLEAR SIGNAL TO GOI THAT USG HAD ONLY PRO FORMA INTEREST IN THIS MATTER. WE REALIZE THAT WE CANNOT EXPECT TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS DURING THE MEETING BUT THIS WOULD SET THE POLICY FRAMEWORK IN WHICH EMBASSY COULD CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS.

8. THIRD SUBJECT WOULD BE GENERAL COMMERCIAL PROBLEMS AFFECTING INDIVIDUAL US FIRMS AND TRADING AND

INVESTMENT RELATIONSHIP AS A WHOLE. UNDER THIS HEADING WE WOULD WANT TO PRESS FOR MORE FAVORABLE AND MORE FLEXIBLE FERA HANDLING OF PRESENT INVESTORS HERE ALSO URGE MORE EFFICIENT HANDLING OF THE PROBLEMS OF OTHER US FIRMS WHICH ENGAGE IN TRADE WITH INDIA. POINT WOULD BE THAT INDIA'S FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL REPUTATION, OF WHICH IT IS VERY PROUD, IS BEING ENDANGERED BY CUMBERSOME ADMINISTRATION.

9. GOI OFFICIALS TELLS US THAT THEY ARE JUST BEGINNING TO MAKE ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUBSTANTIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUBCOMMISSION MEETING. THEY ARE THINKING OF INITIAL PLENARY SESSION TO BE FOLLOWED BY BREAK UP OF DELEGATIONS INTO TWO GROUPS. ONE GROUP WOULD DEAL WITH MULTILATERAL QUESTIONS AND WOULD BE CHAIRED BY M.G. KAUL, WHILE THE SECOND GROUP (PROBABLY CHAIRED BY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE ALEXANDER) WOULD DEAL WITH BILATERAL QUESTIONS. THE TWO GROUPS WOULD THEN REPORT BACK TO PLENARY ON SECOND DAY.

10. INDIANS PLAN TO RAISE FOLLOWING BILATERAL ISSUES:

- A. BILATERAL TEXTILE QUOTAS.
- B. INDIAN PROBLEMS WITH SHIPPING CONFERENCE SERVING INDO-US TRADE.
- C. PROBLEMS OF FDA REJECTIONS OF INDIAN SEAFOOD EXPORTS ON SANITARY GROUNDS.
- D. US GSP POLICY.

11. EMBASSY IS PREPARING PAPERS OUTLINING INDIAN POSITIONS ON ABOVE MATTERS SO THAT THEY CAN BE REFLECTED IN USG POSITION PAPERS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETING AGENDA, COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976NEWDE03308  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760083-0817  
**From:** NEW DELHI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760395/aaaadfvc.tel  
**Line Count:** 145  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 50165  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL SUBCOMMISSION - AGENDA  
**TAGS:** EGEN, IN, US, USINJC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006